

Mr. J.D. Rogers. His commitment to the UAW membership is unwavering. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating him on obtaining his mark in history and in wishing him the very best in future endeavors.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you as a citizen of a state that has been devastated by four major hurricanes in the past several weeks. For the first time in a century, four hurricanes, Charley, Ivan, Frances and Jeanne, hit Florida, within one month. My district, in particular has been forced to deal with the most horrendous effects of these vicious natural disasters. As the devastation from these Hurricanes struck my state, district, and constituents, the service and resolve of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proved to be outstanding. On behalf of all my constituents, I would like to commend the dedicated service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees.

The citizens of Florida would not have been able to withstand the disastrous effects of these hurricanes if it were not for the fortitude and service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). They've never hesitated to fly into the eye of a hurricane to gather information about possible landfall, and NOAA was one of the primary agencies that my office dealt with in seeking information and expert advice to combat the dangerous situation my constituents were placed in because of these storms. When people needed to be warned of these storms, NOAA was there to respond. NOAA and its employees are a tremendous service to my office and constituents.

In this time of crisis, NOAA's National Hurricane Center provided 496 live television interviews and 567 telephone briefings to the media. The information contained in these briefings was relayed to millions of Floridians, allowing for the safe evacuation of more than 4 million Florida residents during Hurricane Frances alone. All together, more than 1,000 hurricane watches, warnings, and advisories were issued during Hurricanes Charley, Ivan, Frances and Jeanne. NOAA provided updated satellite images of all four Hurricanes every five minutes over the days leading to their landfall.

For more than 30 years, NOAA, has been working for America every day. Their knowledge, data gathering, and service have saved the lives of so many. From providing timely and precise weather, water and climate forecasts to monitoring the environment and making our nation more competitive through safe navigation and examining changes in the oceans, NOAA is on the front lines in the service of our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the service of such a valued Federal institution such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SALUTING EDWARD KUSSMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Edward Kussman, a civil rights activist and a good friend, who is being honored on October 15, 2004, by the Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley. Mr. Kussman, who moved to Pacoima in 1956, is a remarkable man with many accomplishments and I have been greatly honored to work with him over the last 20 years on many important community issues.

For more than seven decades, Ed has unwaveringly fought to end racial and other forms of discrimination and to improve opportunities in education, housing and employment. He is a founding member of the Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley and has been an active member for the past 45 years. He has also served seven consecutive terms as President of the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the NAACP, was President of the Pacoima Chamber of Commerce, served for 25 years as a board member of the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, was the Past President of Northeast Valley Health Corporation, and is currently the Commissioner of the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging. His civic involvement is as impressive as it is extensive.

Ed began his fight against racial inequality in a time when African Americans were excluded from accessing many forms of employment and denied entry into public places. His fight for equal rights was instrumental in the state of California's passing the historic Rumford Act prohibiting discrimination in housing. His influence is far reaching and continues to play an essential role in the lives of community members. He is an influential member of my Senior Advisory Council and has been a trusted counselor to me on many important issues.

Born in New Orleans, Ed attended Straight University, Louisiana Frank Wiggins Trade Tech, and UCLA. He has taken an active part in his community and has earned many awards including Man of the Year Award from Beta Pi Sigma Zeta Chapter, the NAACP Freedom Award and Los Angeles's Urban League Award.

Edward Kussman is married and has four daughters.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Edward Kussman for his impressive career, dedication to the people of California and his many years of making a difference.

SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR HEALTH COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2004

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Safe Drinking Water for Healthy Communities Act of 2004. This legislation will

require the EPA to establish a national primary standard for drinking water for perchlorate—otherwise known as rocket fuel.

Perchlorate is a component of rocket fuel—used heavily by the military and its defense contractors. Perchlorate contamination in California is primarily the result of releases from 12 military and defense contractor sites. It disrupts the functioning of the thyroid, resulting in behavior changes and delayed development in children and thyroid tumors in adults. It removes valuable water supplies from service.

Today, communities across the country are finding perchlorate in their drinking water, groundwater, irrigation water, and soil. In mid 1997, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California discovered perchlorate in the lower Colorado River. It was traced to a Kerr McGee plant in Henderson Nevada. Releases to Lake Mead and the Lower Colorado River have impacted the drinking water supply of 15 to 20 million people in Arizona, southern California, southern Nevada, Tribal nations and Mexico. Today more than 120 wells in Los Angeles County have been found to be contaminated with varying levels of perchlorate.

In the district I represent the water providers are struggling to handle the plumes of perchlorate, the legacy of Aerojet. The City of Baldwin Park hosts the nation's first perchlorate treatment facility—a necessity in order to maintain the reliability and availability of safe drinking water. My community faces costs over the next 15 years of at least \$200 million as the result of perchlorate contamination. Yet there exists no enforceable public health standard to ensure our drinking water is safe.

This bill requires the EPA to establish a national primary drinking water standard. Without this, there is no requirement for water to have safe levels of perchlorate and water providers will continue to struggle with guaranteeing long term reliability of safe water sources. Inaction poses an unreasonable risk to both our valuable water supply and our health.

HONORING STEVE AND NANCY BUTCHER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Nancy Butcher who have been honored by the National Restaurant Association as 2004 Restaurant Neighbor Award Finalists. Mr. and Mrs. Butcher own the Nutcracker Family Restaurant in Pataskala, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Butcher led the community of Pataskala in commemorating Flag Day in 2004 and honoring U.S. troops abroad. They organized local businesses and citizens to sponsor flags and display them all over the town of Pataskala and it's main streets. They hosted a community dinner, two sold-out golf scrambles and a lunch for more than 120 participants to raise money for their organization, Flags Over Pataskala. The money they raised went to the Licking County Family YMCA and the Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department. Their efforts reinvigorated the patriotic holiday by selling 168 new flags and displaying 500 smaller flags throughout town.